

[20 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

practices. Action in this regard is to be taken by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments.

Development of Agriculture in North-East

3791. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a plan for development of agriculture in the North-Eastern States, so that they achieve food self sufficiency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in North Eastern States for the development of agriculture and towards achieving self-sufficiency. A list of schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the region is given in the Statement (See below). In addition, a Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern Region is proposed to be launched shortly.

Statement

Details of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in North Eastern States

S. No. Name of the Schemes

- *1. Integrated Cereals Development Programme—Rice.
 - *2. Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
 - *3. Special Jute Development Programme.
 - 4. National Pulses Development Project.
 - 5. Oilseed Production Programme.
 - 6. Accelerated Maize Development Programme.
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Sl. No. Name of the Schemes

- *7. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.
 - *8. Balanced & Integrated use of Fertiliser.
 - *9. Scheme for foundation & Certified Seed Production of Vegetable Crops.
 - 10. Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers.
 - 11. Exchange of Farmers within the country.
 - 12. Strengthening Agricultural Extension in North-Eastern States.
 - 13. Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas.
 - *14. State Land use Board.
 - 15. Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Project & Flood Prone Rivers.
 - *16. Development of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants.
 - *17. Use of Plastics in Agriculture.
 - *18. Development of Commercial Floriculture.
 - *19. Development of Mushroom.
 - *20. Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid Temperate Zone Fruits.
 - *21. Development of Root & Tuber Crops.
 - *22. Development of Vegetables.
 - *23. Integrated Development of Cocoa and Cashew.
 - *24. Development of Spices.
 - *25. Assistance of Weaker Section Cooperatives.
 - *26. Assistance to women Cooperatives.
 - *27. Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund.
 - 28. Development of Betelvine
 - 29. Development of Areca nut.
 - 30. National Project on Development & Use of Bio-fertiliser.
 - 31. Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
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S. No. Name of the Schemes

- *32. Special Scheme for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.
 - *33. Non-Overdue Cover Scheme.
 - 34. Agriculture Census.
 - *35. Integrated Cereals Development Programme—Coarse Cereals.
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*These Schemes have since come under Macro-Management Mode.

Impact of Drought on Agricultural production

3792. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "drought takes its toll on economy" appearing in the Business Standard dated 7th February, 2001;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) the impact of drought on Indian agricultural production during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (d) what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Several measures like circulation of the Drought Contingency Action Plan, free transportation of drinking water and fodder by the Railways, allocation of foodgrains free of cost under Food for Work Programme, allocation of "feed grade" foodgrains free of cost for use as cattle feed and handing over of exploratory tubewells for drinking water purposes have been taken. In addition, watershed development programme and steps for conservation and harvesting of water have also been taken. In accordance with the items and norms for relief assistance, small and marginal farmers are also eligible for input subsidy for damaged crops.

(c) Production of foodgrains depends on various factors. Drought of varying magnitude does occur in some parts of the